

INDIAN HOMES

North Dakota Prehistory

Around the year 500 B.C., a fire destroyed this home on the wooded bank of the James River. This long-ago tragedy preserved portions of the house. In 1985, the Naze site was excavated by archeologists. It was possible to draw a picture of the house, based on what the archeologists found. The Naze House is the oldest permanent home ever found in North Dakota.

A tipi is a portable home, well suited for people who move a lot. Bison hides were sewn together and stretched over a framework of poles. Sometimes rocks helped hold down the tipi cover. In North Dakota, people began living in tipis more than 9,000 years ago.

After the year 1600, Plains Village people began building circular earthlodges. The floor plan shows were people cooked, slept, and stored things.

Plains Village people began building rectangular earthlodges around the year A.D. 1000. Walls were covered with brush and willow branches, followed by a thick, insulating layer of earth.

